



## **WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS**

*Week ending April 11, 2008*

State law assigns four core duties to the State Planning Office that include: 1) conducting continuing economic analysis, including economic forecasting, 2) coordinating the development of the State's economy and energy resources with the conservation of its natural resources; 3) providing technical assistance to towns and regions; and 4) providing technical assistance to the Governor and Legislature by undertaking special studies and plans and preparing policy alternatives.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

#### **Maine Commission for Community Service Board Meeting**

April 18, 2008 from 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM, Cross Office Building, Room 105, Augusta

CONTACT: [Donna Bradstreet](#) at 287-5649

#### **15th Annual Maine Recycling & Solid Waste Conference**

April 28–29, 2008 from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Samoset Resort, Rockport, Maine  
FMI:

[http://www.mrra.net/admin/assets/2008\\_Conference\\_Registration\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.mrra.net/admin/assets/2008_Conference_Registration_Flyer.pdf)

### **DIRECTOR'S POLICY AND MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**Energy efficiency white paper prepared.** As part of the Governor's energy efficiency conference last week, the State Planning Office worked with USM's Muskie School and UM's Margaret Chase Smith Center to produce a background paper on energy efficiency in Maine. The paper, *Energy Efficiency, Business Competitiveness and Untapped Economic Potential in Maine*, shows that Maine businesses could save over \$450 million per year by adopting several cost-effective measures identified for other states. To download the paper:

<http://www.maine.gov/spo/>. CONTACT: Sue Inches at 287-2989 or [sue.inches@maine.gov](mailto:sue.inches@maine.gov)

## **COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**CEO training offered.** Local code enforcement officers will receive training and certification as visible emission observers. Visible emission observation is an important tool to help facilities maintain compliance and improve environmental and operational performance. Successful participants will be certified as “Method 9 Visible Emissions Observers” by meeting the training and testing requirements established by the US Environmental Protection Agency. This training/certification includes two parts, a classroom session and a field session. Participants will evaluate one complete run of black and white smoke. To register or for more information:

<http://www.maine.gov/spo/ceo/training/index.htm>. **CONTACT:** Lana Clough at 287-8056 or [lane.clough@maine.gov](mailto:lane.clough@maine.gov)

**SPO co-sponsors annual recycling conference.** The 15<sup>th</sup> annual recycling and solid waste conference will be held on April 28-29 at the Samoset in Rockport. The conference features keynote addresses, training and informational sessions with experienced and knowledgeable presenters, actual and virtual tours of municipal solid waste facilities, and vendor exhibits, plus the popular *recyclathon* safety rodeo competition.

SPO’s George MacDonald, along with Paula Clark from DEP and representatives of Maine’s public and private solid waste sectors, will present their thoughts on the future of solid waste management. Another session features the students who participated in SPO’s contest for creating television and radio advertisements. Participants will be able to view several of the ads and talk with students; a great opportunity to tap into the younger generation’s thoughts about recycling! To register or for more information:

[http://www.mrra.net/admin/assets/2008\\_Conference\\_Registration\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.mrra.net/admin/assets/2008_Conference_Registration_Flyer.pdf)  
**CONTACT:** George MacDonald at 287-5759 or [george.macdonald@maine.gov](mailto:george.macdonald@maine.gov)

**Cool Cities groups discuss recycling.** Maine’s *Cool Cities* program is organized by the Sierra Club as a grassroots effort to engage and involve citizens in educating their communities about climate change. Jetta Antonakos, SPO Waste Management and Recycling, met with the Lewiston-Auburn Cool Cities group to discuss how recycling can help. Jetta introduced the *Maine Recycles* toolkit, which contains downloadable ads, posters, and articles that can be customized to promote any Maine recycling program. FMI: [www.mainerecycles.com](http://www.mainerecycles.com).

**CONTACT:** Jetta Antonakos at 287-9074 or [jetta.antonakos@maine.gov](mailto:jetta.antonakos@maine.gov)

**Saco Rotarians help promote campaign.** On April 10, the Saco Rotarians learned about recycling in Maine and a number took *Maine Recycles* posters and magnets to boost recycling in their businesses. Jetta Antonakos, SPO Waste Management and Recycling, and Sarah Wojcoski, Saco Recycling Coordinator, briefed members of the Saco Bay Rotary about *Maine Recycles*, the state's promotional campaign. Recycling in Saco is about as easy as it gets. The city provides weekly, automated curbside, 'single-sort,' collection and uses roomy carts with wheels, attached lids, and decals explaining what can go inside. Small businesses that can fit their recycling into a cart can participate in the curbside program. Larger businesses either drop off their materials at the recycling barn or contract for private services. Saco's current recycling brochure includes photos and information from the *Maine Recycles* toolkit. **CONTACT:** Jetta Antonakos at 287-9074 or [jetta.antonakos@maine.gov](mailto:jetta.antonakos@maine.gov)

### **ECONOMICS AND DEMOGRAPHICS**

**2008 Report on Poverty.** Each year since 1998, the Maine State Planning Office has reported on the subject of poverty in Maine. The recently-released 2008 report contains indicators updated through December 2007. To view the report: <http://www.maine.gov/spo/economics/index.htm>. **CONTACT:** Kate Reilly at 287-1479 or [Catherine.reilly@maine.gov](mailto:Catherine.reilly@maine.gov)

### **LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE PROGRAM**

**LMF review findings positive.** The Legislature's Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry completed its review of the Land for Maine's Future Board under the Government Evaluation Act, 3 MRSA, Chapter 35. The committee found that the board is operating within its statutory authority and true to its mission. **CONTACT:** Tim Glidden at 287-1487 or [Tim Glidden](#)